

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

The Department acquired 742 acres of Upper Newport Bay, Orange County in 1975 from the Irvine Company and later acquired an additional 10 acres in a side tributary drainage known as Big Canyon.

A comprehensive natural resource monitoring, research and management program is currently underway at Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (UNBER) under the aegis of the SCR Land Management and Monitoring Program. SCR Monitoring Team presence at UNBER was somewhat limited in 2002. They conducted a focused species survey for the California gnatcatcher and the least Bell's vireo at the Reserve and surrounding environs on April 5, 2002. Results of this monitoring effort were used as part of an initial scoping phase for the Big Canyon restoration project.

No least Bell's vireos were detected in the riparian habitat located in Big Canyon. Least Bell's vireos have been seen at UNBER in 1996 and 1999; however, we know of no nesting records for vireo in this area.

Four or five California gnatcatcher territories were documented during the survey.



Figure 23. Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

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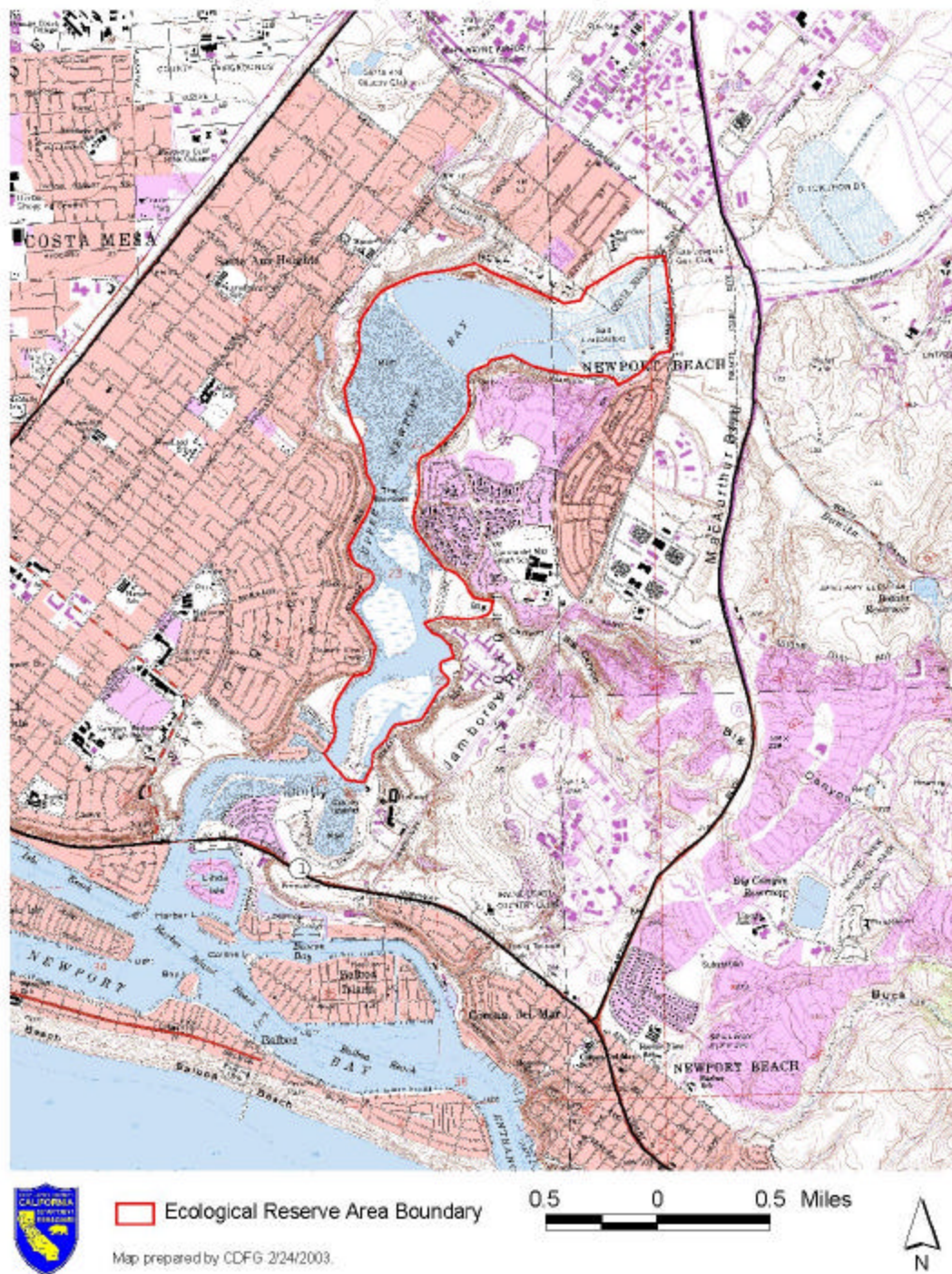


Figure 24. Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve